

Town of Little Creek Council Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2023

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:02 pm by Commissioner Edward Strouse. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Board members and residents in attendance and a moment of silence was observed. Having observed that four out of five members of the Board of Commissioners were present in person and one member was in attendance via Zoom call for the February meeting, Commissioner Theresa May declared to all persons in attendance that there was a quorum and therefore the Town Council was free to conduct business and begin the meeting. The four members of the Board of Commissioners present for the Town of Little Creek Council Meeting: Commissioner Ed Strouse, Commissioner Carol Puleo, Commissioner Jason Arrington, and Commissioner Theresa May. Commissioner Adrienne Hegman attended via Zoom call. Seven members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting: Cheryl Bundek, Michael Scott Bundek, Judith Hegman, Doug Hegman Clay Crommett, Dennis May, and Penny Gentry. Three members of the public attended the meeting via the Zoom option: Carol Williams, Bill Clark, and Angie Strouse. Two special guests were in attendance to make presentations to the residents of Little Creek and the Town Board of Commissioners: Dover City Mayor, Robin R. Christiansen and Levy Court Commissioner Allan Angel.

After the initial start to the monthly meeting, Mayor Strouse addressed those assembled with information regarding the utility rates of the town and those of City of Dover residents to show his findings and assure residents that the rates in both places were comparable to each other. He then introduced the special guests at the meeting, City of Dover Mayor Robin Christiansen, and Levy Court Commissioner Allan Angel. Mayor Christiansen was invited to address the residents of Little Creek as a representative of the City of Dover regarding the recent increase in residential electricity rates. Mayor Christiansen shared background information to help explain the history of the Town of Little Creek's dependence on City of Dover as the provider for their utility services and the changes in how the City of Dover acquires the electricity for both municipalities. He also explained the recent rate increase overall and opened the floor to entertain questions from the assembly. Residents expressed concern with the lack of representation and being at the mercy of the City of Dover Council without notification prior to policy changes or a voice in decisions that have a direct impact on the Town of Little Creek. It should also be noted that City of Dover Councilman Roy Sudler, declined to attend the meeting. Some of the questions residents asked could have been best addressed by Commissioner Sudler. Mayor Christiansen did pay for the Town of Little Creek's fee to join the Delaware League of Government. He also expressed his willingness to facilitate a desired meeting between the Town and the City of Dover representatives to explore future cooperative endeavors. *Note: Electricity meetings are held by the City of Dover Council at their first meeting in June and all agendas for City of Dover meetings are posted online prior to their meetings. On a separate note, according to Mayor Christiansen, options for locating solar farms in areas that do not affect productive farmland and/or the flight path of aircraft in their approach to land at the Dover Airbase, are being explored.

The meeting minutes from the previous month were electronically sent to the commissioners for their review prior to this meeting. These minutes were also made available to all in attendance as

hard copies. All commissioners on the board reviewed the minutes from January 2, 2023, and Commissioner Puleo made a motion to accept the minutes received from the secretary/clerk as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner May and put to a full board vote where it was passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report covering the period from January 2, 2023, to February 6, 2023, was presented at this meeting. Commissioner Strouse read the report aloud to everyone present. Commissioner May made a motion to accept the report as presented for both months and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. When put to a full vote by the board it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Strouse stated the pending bills and provided information on what these bills covered. The formal motion to pay all the bills was made by Commissioner Puleo. This motion was seconded by Commissioners Arrington and put to full board for a vote. The Board unanimously passed the motion to pay the current bills.

Committee Reports

- a) **Planning Commission** – Carol Williams and Commissioner Arrington
 - No report
- b) **Parks and Recreation** – Commissioner Hegman
 - Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023
 - Commissioner Adrienne Hegman will take the lead again on planning and implementation of the annual event.
 - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese/Mr. Courtney
 - Couple from Wild Meadows continue to care for the park in the morning. Susan Freese also continues to look after the area and makes sure the supplies are stocked. She will notify Town Council as supplies become depleted and need to be purchased.
- c) **Code Enforcement** – Commissioner Puleo
 - Commissioner Joann Masten is newly in charge of the Code Enforcement Department for Kent County
 - No code enforcement infractions found at the Grow property.
 - Zero Main Street (Edwards' property) has complied with requests to cut back overgrown vegetation.
 - Steininger property has been removed from Sheriff's Sale, having made payment arrangements with the County to cover back taxes. According to Commissioner Strouse, money still owed to the Town of Little Creek for overdue taxes on this property will be dispersed from the Kent County office upon receipt.
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- d) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundeck
 - Chief Bundeck presented updated information regarding the new engine, the sale of the Pierce land engine to a fire company in Maine who was in need of an engine, the completion of the new engine training, the pending arrival of the new Brush Truck, and the ordering of a new medical gator.

- March 23, 2023 will make 3 years that the Fire Department has been manned voluntarily 24/7.
- The reported outside fires at the Audi Marvel/Grow property were attended by the Little Creek Fire Department. Both fires were considered a non-complaint issue and fall under the Department of Environment, Air and Waste.

Old Business – Commissioner Strouse

- a) **Northern Flood Study** - Commissioner Strouse
 - \$31,000 from Bonini’s office to implement flood study
- b) **Bayshore Byways Grant** – Commissioner Strouse
 - State Police charge \$100 per hour to patrol area. Town agreed to use the \$1,000 gift from Levy Court Commissioner Allan Angel to cover police presence in the Town for five times.
 - Stop signs are an option at certain locations along Main Street to assist in traffic calming measures. Will need approval from Farmer’s Association and Fire Department before 3-way stop signs can be placed in town.
 - Speed cameras are also an option at certain locations. Will need support of legislators and residents should contact Representative Carson to ask for his support.
- c) **ARPA** (American Rescue Plan Act) – Commissioner Strouse
 - No funds spent.
- d) **Community Partnerships** - Commissioner May
 - Nothing new to report.
- e) **Food Box** – Commissioner Hegman
 - Using a box that was donated. Susan Freese put the box together and Clay Crommet has the pole, cement, and post hole digger to plant the box.
- f) **Solar Farm** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The hearing was rescheduled again. New date is February 16, 2023 at Levy Court Building
- g) **Municipal Elections** – Commissioners Strouse and May
 - Upcoming deadline to submit letters of intent to run for the open positions on the Board of Commissioners is Monday, February 13, 2023.
 - Elections will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2023 if more than 2 people apply for the 2 open positions on the Board of Commissioners.

New Business – Commissioner Strouse

Southern Flood Study – Commissioner Strouse

- Mayor Strouse met with representatives who would be involved in the Southern Flood Study for the Town of Little Creek. Verdantis will do the study, using the same process as was done for the Northern Flood Study
- Tech Op Grant \$100,000
- No fee to Town, just input
- Joe P. is also helping.

Levy Court Commissioner Angel also addressed the meeting attendees and Board of Commissioners. He explained that the sewer fees will increase. The wastewater plant needs to be upgraded and they are looking for a back-up location. If there is a significant flood event, will be washed out. Levy Court is looking into responsibly raising taxes to cover increasing costs and making needed improvements. A two page report on bringing new people to Dover is going to be released. Commissioner Angel mentioned that he will be running for re-election when his current term ends.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Puleo and seconded by Commissioner May. It was then put to the full Board for vote. All members having voted "Aye" the motion to adjourn was carried and the meeting was officially ended at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary